

Remarks:

Applicant would like to express appreciation for the courtesies extended by the Examiner in the telephonic interview conducted on August 16, 2010 between the Examiner and the undersigned.

As set forth in the Final Office Action of June 9, 2010, independent claim 25 and its dependent claims 26-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,204,669 ("Dorfe") in view of U.S. Publication No. 2004/0090925 ("Schoeberl"). In the Advisory Action, the Examiner takes the new position with regard to the rejection of claim 25 that Schoeberl "suggests the restoration of a contact by changing the power state from standby (interrupted) to on-mode (restored)," citing paragraph 55.

Claim 25 requires, among other things, a switch that interrupts and restores the contact of a module to a central unit, and a computer unit with a computing unit to calculate a topology "on the basis of a comparison of module identification information that was registered before interrupting the contact with module identification information that was registered while the contact was interrupted." In other words, the topology is calculated by comparing information registered before the contact was interrupted with information registered while the contact was interrupted. As the undersigned explained during the interview, even assuming that the mention in Schoeberl of a standby power mode can be considered an "interruption" of a contact, there is absolutely no disclosure in Schoeberl of registering module identification information while the system is in the standby mode (i.e., while the contact is interrupted). Moreover, one of ordinary skill in the art would not expect any such activity while a system is in power standby mode. During the interview, the Examiner indicated agreement that this teaching was missing from Schoeberl. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 25-31 should be allowable over the combination of Dorfe and Schoeberl.

Applicant believes that no additional fees are due in connection with this submission, however, if any fees are necessary, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-0390, Baker & Daniels.

If there are any questions regarding any of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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